

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 47-59 remain pending in the application, with Claims 47, 49, 54, 57 and 58 being independent. Claims 47, 49, 54 and 57 have been amended herein.

Claims 47-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,412,410 (Rezanka). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 47 and 49 each recite, inter alia, selecting one printing mode from a first printing mode for forming a print image in which the printing head is caused to perform only large ejection, a second printing mode for forming a print image in which the printing head is caused to perform only small ejection, and a third printing mode for forming a print image in which the printing head is caused to perform both the large ejection and the small ejection, to perform printing in the selected printing mode.

Each of independent Claims 54 and 57 recites, inter alia, controlling changing of a printing mode from among a first mode for forming a print image in which the printing head performs only large ejection, a second mode for forming a print image in which the printing head performs only medium ejection, a third mode for forming a print image in which the printing head performs only small ejection, and a fourth mode in which the printing head performs all of the large ejection, the medium ejection, and the small ejection.

Rezanka relates to an ink jet printhead having two or more groups of nozzles, in which the volume of ink ejected from a nozzle of one nozzle group is different from that of a nozzle of another nozzle group. As shown in Figs. 8 and 9, plural columns are formed with differently sized dots. However, each column cannot be considered to correspond to a print image or to correspond to a printing mode for forming a print image. That is, there is no suggestion that only the selected column in Figs. 8 or 9 is used for forming a print image. Figs. 16-23, 26 and 27 depict half-tone cells. Various sized dots can be used to form the respective cells depending on the half-tone level. However, Rezanka is not believed to disclose or suggest selecting one of various printing modes for forming a print image, as in independent Claims 47 and 49. Nor does Rezanka disclose or suggest controlling changing of a printing mode from among various printing modes for forming a print page, as in independent Claims 54 and 57.

Thus, independent Claims 47, 49, 54 and 57 are patentable over Rezanka.

Independent Claim 58 relates to an ink jet printing apparatus forming a line of dots, in which dots formed with different ejection amounts of ink are arranged, in a scan direction of a printing head. The line of dots is formed by a plurality of times of the scan of the printing head, and the respective dots of different amounts of ink are formed by different scans of the printing head.

In Figs. 8 and 9 of Rezanka, column A is not elongated in a scan direction (shown by arrow 11), but rather in a direction perpendicular to the scan direction. Accordingly, Rezanka cannot be said to disclose or suggest forming a line of dots in a scan direction of a printing head, with the line of dots formed by a plurality of times of the scan

of the printing head, and respective dots of different amounts of ink are formed by different scans of the printhead, as is recited in independent Claim 58.

Thus, Rezanka also fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 58.

Thus, independent Claims 47, 49, 54, 57 and 58 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 47, 49, 54, 57 and 58. Dependent Claims 48, 50-53, 55, 56 and 59 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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